Speed post services at Gurusahaiganj, Kannauj

†1666. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that the post office situated in Gurusahaiganj of District Kannauj has not been linked with All India Booking Speed Post Service;

(b) if so, whether non-computerization of the said post office is one of the factors responsible for the same; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary action to link the above said post office with All India Booking Speed Post Service by making the above post office computerized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (OR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir; Gurusahaiganj Post Office, District Kannauj is linked to the All India Speed Post network.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Telephone connections in Kannauj, U.P.

†1667. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections allotted in Gurusahaiganj, District Kannauj (U.P) out of the application made between March, 2002 to March, 2004 alongwith the number of applications still in the waiting list;

(b) the total capacity of the said telephone exchange;

(c) the reasons for inordinate delay in providing telephone connections;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the mismanagement prevailing and apathy of the employees to the public grievances in the said telephone exchange; and

(e) if so, whether Government would try to improve the system in the said telephone exchange by taking appropriate action in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Sir, out of 253 applications received between March, 2002 to March, 2004 in Gurusahaiganj, District Kannauj, 185 telephone connections have been allotted and 68 applications are pending.

(b) The total capacity of Gurusahaiganj exchange is 1400 lines.

(c) The delay in provision of pending telephone connections is due to area being technically non-feasible and inadequate exchange capacity.

(d) Yes, Sir. A complaint was received against an employee.

(e) The complaint was investigated by vigilance and a warning issued to the employee. There is now significant improvement in the system.

Iraqi Mission in Mumbai

1668. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have allowed Iraq to reopen its mission in Mumbai;

(b) if so, does it mean that India has recognized US backed interim Iraqi regime as sovereign one;

(c) whether Government are going to increase its mission's strength in Iraq; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reopening of the Consulate General of Iraq in Mumbai does not denote a change in India's position *vis-a-vis* the Interim Government of Iraq.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.